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SCHOOLS TOO BOOKISH.

We like the idea of many modern schools in making objective sense-perception to some extent the basis and in all cases the companion work of book studies.

It is an accepted maxim among educators that the common schools are too bookish. The students are studying, not what they themselves have seen, experienced, thought, or accomplished, but always what some one else, often a remote person who lived in foreign lands or distant times, is supposed to have thought, said, or done.

We say "supposed," because in many cases the feats, or sayings, attributed to ancient or foreign men and women, are largely fabulous and these reading lessons nearly always bear the air of fiction and unreality, and not infrequently that of unnaturalness or impossibility. Reading from books is, to all children, and to some adults, a mere seeing through other people's eyes, instead of using their own; thinking other people's thoughts instead of experimenting for themselves; and at best imitating others rather than acquiring command of their own activities by systematic trial of them.

What the child really needs most, what he truly likes best, is to explore the world for himself. What is needed is not the mere facts about birds, flowers, and animals, for example, but by means of studying them to add to the resources and enjoyment of active child life. Nature study as it appeals to the child from books—from words, talks, charts and pictures—fails of its chief end if it does not send the child to nature itself. And to make sure that the whole thing is not more a or less of a failure, we entirely coincide with the teaching that the child would best begin with the object—with the rock, the plant, the bird, the butterfly—with whatever, in fact, is the subject of study. And then, after the child has made his own observations and deductions under the questioning and direction of the teacher, let him read what others have seen and proved about these or similar objects. This method alone is literature in its true sense; for short of this basis in one's own experience, he has nothing with which to compare what others have written. The teacher simply deceives himself in supposing that the child understands what he reads or even what he spells, writes, memorizes or recites. That will depend upon what the child has already seen, done, or thought for himself.

The child can read, spell, write, and recite, and yet have only a vague, or, if vivid, a positively false idea of what he is reading, spelling, reciting, drawing. But give him a basis for comparison, and he will construe more or less correctly the words of others, and will read well because he reads intelligently.

There are various ways of giving the child this basis; but our best educators have long been practically unanimous in saying that there is no better way than by the study of nature at first hand.

The interest of the healthy child in the great world about him is a wondering, curious, loving, and even scientific interest. It is science on the one hand, and an appreciation of the mystery, the beauty, and the bounty of life upon the other. "When," as John Burroughs remarks, "the school girls come to school with their hands full of wild flowers, or the boys make excursions to the woods in May for wintergreens, or black birch, or crinkle root, they are all moved by an interest that is old and deep seated as the race."

Now, the schools can add to this interest and curiosity a little science and touch of practical knowledge, just enough to guide the boys and girls to see the great ends toward which all animate nature is tending, and just how man can make use of these tendencies in field, forest, factory, and home life. These natural feelings are lifted by these means to a higher plane. What boy will rob birds' nests after the savage in him has been humanized by a study of the homes and habits, the songs and usefulness of the blue-bird and meadow-lark?

We could heartily wish well to this truer standpoint of education. It is a nobler and saner motive and basis from which the child can better learn to read, write, spell, and cipher. What cannot the child learn better and faster while dealing with facts which he himself has discovered, with sentiments of love and beauty, of kindred companionship, that are truly his own spontaneous creations, and due primarily to his own understanding?

We hope to see some day in every school the time when school facts and drills will have become, instead of arbitrary discipline and routine drudgery, the basis of healthful living in adult life and a light and joy to the mind during the years of childhood and adolescence.

CLEANING UP.

The offense of Lewis Glass, the vice president of the Pacific Telephone company, who has been convicted of bribery in San Francisco, was that he had paid a certain supervisor $5,000 for a negative vote on an ordinance granting a telephone franchise to a rival concern. The bribe taker confessed. The defendant had two trials. In the first the jury disagreed. Then the prosecution asked for a second trial, and the result was that the jury unhesitatingly returned a verdict of "guilty."

The work of cleaning up the Augean stable on the coast is progressing nicely. The pledges given the people that both bribe-givers and bribe-takers shall be prosecuted, when found out, is going on with remarkable vigor. Other cities would profit by following the example.

New York, too, is promised some sensations if the program is carried out. Mr. Murphy, who is designated as the leader of Tammany Hall, has sued The Broadway Magazine for $50,000 damages for certain statements published by that magazine. The managing editor of The Broadway says that if the suit is pressed to a trial the magazine's attorney, who would probably be William M. Ivins, would put every prominent Tammany leader in New York on the stand to testify as to graft; and that "now that Mr. Murphy seems to be interested in the Broadway's story" the magazine would begin to prepare articles concerning Tammany that would be even livelier than that which had occasioned the libel suit. Surely, we are living in a time of investigations.

ARIZONA AND NEVADA.

If Nevada and Arizona should be amalgamated, the two would form the largest state in the Union, next to Texas. Nevada has an area of 110,700 square miles, and Arizona 112,920. The total would be 223,620 square miles—an empire larger than France, or Great Britain and Ireland, and nearly fourteen times the size of Switzerland.

Arizona's population is about 200,000 and that of Nevada 50,000, so the total population would be considerably less than that of Utah. It has been said that both the Territory and the State would receive a boom from the union of their resources, and that the proposition, therefore, ought to be favorably considered by all the parties interested.

Eastern politicians frequently talk about the inequity of representation, a state with a small and dwindling population having the same representation in the United States Senate as a large and populous state. Nevada has often been referred to as an illustration of this. But as there is no Constitutional provision for the reduction of a sovereign state to the condition of Territorial dependence, no remedy has been suggested. The proposed union would remove the inequity, as far as Nevada is concerned.

The people of Arizona objected strenuously to the proposed union with New Mexico. The Legislature passed protesting resolutions, commercial bodies did likewise. The bar association sent a delegation to Washington to work against the union measure before Congress. One of the reasons against union urged was that the Organic Act creating the Territory of Arizona, passed by Congress Feb. 24, 1863, provided: "That said government shall be maintained and continued until such time as the people residing in said Territory . . . apply for and obtain admission as a state on an equal footing with the original states." This it was pointed out, is a promise of statehood for Arizona, as it is now geographically considered, and not as an appendix to some other state. We fancy the objection to a union with Nevada will be as strong as the resentment of the proposed union with New Mexico.

As for the eastern objection to western representation in the Senate, this was well answered by Mr. Reid of Arkansas, when, in an address before the House of Representatives Jan. 30, 1906, he said:

"The secret of the whole matter is the growing influence of the West in the Senate of the United States. If these Territories were east of the mountains they would have been admitted years ago. Gentlemen cry out in alarm at the prospect of granting to these Territories the same representation upon the floor of the Senate that is enjoyed by the older states. 'What,' they ask, 'is Arizona or Oklahoma to have the same power and influence in the Senate that is exercised by the great States of New York and Pennsylvania?' Why do they never compare these Territories with Connecticut and Rhode Island? Why do we hear nothing of the wonderful resources of Vermont, the multiplying population of Maine and Massachusetts, or the boundless domain of Delaware? Ah, no, indeed! From the foundation of this Government New England has dictated the financial and fiscal policy of this nation, but the day of western ascendency has begun to dawn. The ability to sustain great populations in New England is rapidly diminishing, while that of the South and West is becoming greater and greater as year is added unto year. There is more than twice as much territory west of the Mississippi as there is east of that river. The population east has increased in the last decade at about 17 per cent, while the west has increased at from 60 to 70 per cent. Fifty years from now, if the same ratio prevails, there will be three times as many people west as there are east of the Mississippi."

This being the fact, the fear of too much western representation is senseless. There cannot be too many wise, patriotic men in the council chambers of this nation. If there is any reason for fear, it is because the chosen men are not what they ought to be. But the people can remedy that, by selecting only the best citizens to represent the country. And of that class there cannot be too many.

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

What Kipling calls "the white man's burden" is strikingly exemplified in the case of the Philippine islands.

According to a dispatch in our last issue, it has cost the United States $400,000,000 to date to acquire and hold these new possessions.

It was further added that this sum would pay for 120 battleships of the type of the Oregon and the Indiana, and would be sufficient to supply this country with the most powerful navy in the world that it would pay all the government pensions for three years; or maintain for two years the entire public school system of the twelve greatest States; or pay the entire combined cost of the Suez canal, the Erie canal, New York's Croton water system, Central Park, the Albany State capitol, the New York subway, and the Panama canal. As if this were not sufficiently impressive, it was finally shown that the cost of the Philippines is nearly equal to the entire annual wheat crop of the United States.

Such is the money cost that has followed the acquisition of these new colonies. Are they worth it? Time alone can tell.

In a political sense, nothing else is more popular than the acquisition of new colonies. In a commercial sense, Adam Smith was decidedly of the opinion that a colonial policy does not pay the nations that engage in it.

When, however, overcrowded nations seek outlets for their over-flowing population, or when, as in our case, a country undertakes to lift a benighted nation into the progress of European civilization, the questions are respectively, "Must it not be done?" and "Should it not be done?" rather than "Will it pay to do it?"

At all events our own country appears to have succeeded in getting under its share of "the white man's burden," in its undertaking in the Philippine islands.

Is a pillow sham a nature fake?

It is the reign of price not of peace.

The cause of tight money is generally a close fist.

If these are the melancholy days, the more the merrier.

Vancouver is suffering acutely from an "unwhipped mob."

When immunity baths are given, there should be plenty of carbolic acid in the douche.

Butter is getting so high that it must be made from the milk of the cow that jumped over the moon.

Is it proper to speak of Johnson and Burton who have entered the mayoralty race in Cleveland as Cleveland bays?

The right to speak for a people is the right to berate a people, according to the interpretation of the anti-"Mormon" organ.

The President will take no part in the Cleveland mayoralty contest. He is a mighty hunter and that would be small game for him.

It begins to look as though the Hague conference would have to content itself in giving universal peace absent treatment.

Hall Caine calls Raisuli "the emissary of the Most High, going about as the arm of justice." Hall's idea seems to be very un "Christian"-like.

The Springfield Republican thinks that it is time for the President to get after the novelists. Then it is time for the novelists to get up and git.

Mrs. Bradley Martin says she would rather live in a hut in Europe than in a palace on this side of the Atlantic. And the cisatlantic people would rather she did.

The Pennsylvania two-cent fare law has been declared unconstitutional, but the looting of the commonwealth through the capitol graft has not been condemned thus far.

In the matter of gifts and charities John D. Rocefeller is about forty millions dollars behind Andrew Carnegie, both of whom have passed the hundred million dollar mark.

"'Unknown I go my way, and no one cares or asks,' sings a Topeka poet," says an exchange. There are no Kansas poets. All the poets in the United States live in Indiana.

Seattle claims to be the sixth largest city in point of area in the United States. New York, New Orleans, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco are the cities with larger areas. There is a good deal of ground for the claim.

The comments in the Japanese press on the Vancouver riots, so far as they have been telegraphed, are exceedingly sensible, passionless and conservative. They really challenge admiration and set a splendid example for the jingo press throughout the world.

THE FRENCH NOBILITY.

New York Post.

What has become of the French nobility and what are its pursuits, are questions much discussed in the Parisian press, apropos of Paul Bourget's "Emigre." Under the republic, a few of the aristocrats join the army or navy. They are generally much richer than before the revolution. Many have married into commercial families, and many have themselves entered active business. One marquis of distinguished lineage is a champagne agent at Epernay; another nobleman sells fish. There are titled manufacturers of cider, automobiles and pumps. One blue blooded baron is a distiller. If the aristocracy were only numerous enough, we might soon see all trades associated with the names of peers of France; while the only gentlemen of leisure would be those who are now "commercants." A general strike headed by a duke, with a marquis bearing the red flag of the Internationale, would furnish a thoroughly modern spectacle.

A FLEET IN THE PACIFIC.

Boston Globe.

By steam coal experts the prediction is freely made that the Atlantic battleship fleet which will go to the Pacific will never return. A revolution, therefore, is said to be impending in soft coal shipments from Atlantic ports, since millions of tons of coal will have to be shipped in the next few years to Pacific ports for the use of the battleships. This prediction probably will not be literally realized, but if the battleship fleet journeys to the Pacific the grand maneuver by way of Magellan straits will never be repeated on a return cruise to the Atlantic. Individual ships will find their way back here as an incidental stop on special orders, but the waters of the Pacific will not be without men-of-war. It is unfortunate that there is no private shipbuilding plant on the Pacific where American men-of-war could be built, but the great expanse of water between America and Asia can be no longer a painted ocean in its relation to the world's naval strategy.

IT IS BEST TO FORGET.

Zanesville Signal.

Someone has aptly said that we need to cultivate our forgetory as well as our memory. The wise person tries hard to forget the disagreeable, sorrowing, handicapping things that are done and cannot be undone, and sets his face to the future with its sun of hope. The Elmyra (N. Y.) Star-Gazette has gathered together these few things that it is better to cast into the mental garbage pile: "The mean things others have said about you. The injury that any person has done you. The mistakes you have made in the past except that they may warn you in the future. The kindness you have tried to do to others. The days when you were better off than you are now. The promises other people have made to you. The ill natured gossip you have heard concerning others. The secrets entrusted to your confidence. The worry that hinders your happiness. The drawbacks that seem to stand in the way of your success." If any wrong, any error, of the past can be atoned or even partially remedied, it is one's first duty to attend to it. But the mistakes, the grievances, the sorrows that are in the past—what good does it do to recall them? Time wasted in conning over our failures is time sadly wasted. There is grief enough and bitterness enough in the world without adding to them unnecessarily. Remembering is only worth while as it steers us away from the old pitfalls. We need to forget the old to make room for the new and better.

JUST FOR FUN.

Names by Contraries.

To call a day when nobody works "Labor day" is an example of the American tendency to name things on the lucus-a-non principle. A policy which obliges nearly every one to protect himself is called protection. Corporations which universally awaken suspicion are trusts. The most heinous of taxes is a duty, and property which may lose its value in an hour is a security. Walking delegates either sit still in bar-rooms or drive about in cabs. Waists are worn on the back and shoulders. Soda water is sold in dry goods stores, and the logician may get general notions at the bargain counter. Glasses standing on a table are tumblers.—New York Evening Post.

How He Departed.

"He isn't in our social set any more.
"So I understand."
"Yes; he dropped out some time ago."
"Indeed! He gave me to understand he had climbed out."—Philadelphia Press.

An Inventor.

"No, I haven't anything for you to eat," said the woman of the house. "Why don't you work for your living? Haven't you any occupation?"
"Yes, ma'am," answered Tuffold Knutt, straightening up and tilting his melancholy remnant of a hat at a defiant angle. "I'm an inventor."
"An inventor? Of what?"
"Of labor saving devices, ma'am. Good afternoon."—Chicago Tribune.

Indirectly.

"Have you ever contributed any money toward the cause of higher education?"
"Indeed, yes. We use Standard Oil at our house."—Life.

The First Essential.

As the Republics of Central America have agreed to hold a peace conference, the first thing to do is to send in a police call.—Philadelphia Press.

Eats Nothing Else Now.

Yeast, I hear he has become a vegetarian?
Crimsonbeak. That's right.
"How is that?"
"Somebody told him there was alcohol in sweet potatoes."—Yonkers Statesman.

Trouble Brewing.

Rogers. I consulted a clairvoyant before my marriage, and asked her if she saw any breakers ahead.
Browne. What did she say?
"Said she saw 12 cooks and 27 waitresses."—Smart Set.